(b) if so, the details of the suggestions made by TRAI in this regard and those so far accepted by Government;

(c) the suggestions proposed to be accepted shortly, the time likely to be taken therefor; and

(d) the suggestions not accepted by Government and the reasons therefor in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Telecome Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have recently sent a communication to the Government recommending that Government should conduct a review of various provisions of Broadband Policy and should have reconsiderations of TRAI's earlier recommendations pertaining to Local Loop unbundling and fiscal incentives for Broadband. However, the suggestions made by TRAI are under examination.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Amendment in I.T. Act

148. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to bring amendments to IT Act to ensure data security and customer protection;

(b) whether Government has identified any areas where the amendments are required to IT Act; and

(c) if so, the details of the areas identified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Information Technology Act, 2000 provides for elaborate legal framework for data security protection in the country. The Section 43, 66 and 72 covers data security and data protection.

(b) The Expert Committee set up by the Department of Information Technology to review the IT Act, 2000 has suggested a number of amendments in the Act.

(c) The major areas considered for providing amendments/new provisions relates to making the Act technology neutral, explicit provision for electronic contracts, issues related to child pornography, video voyeurism, liabilities of network service providers and Digital Evidence Examiner.

Merger of BSNL and MTNL

†149. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons of avoidance of delaying of the merger of BSNL and MTNL;

(b) whether the final decision for merger of the two Government enterprises is under consideration of Government;

(c) if so, by when these two enterprises would be merged; and

(d) if not, the detailed information thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Sir, the Government has been considering different options for restructuring MTNL and BSNL with the objective of bringing higher synergy in their operations. A consortium of consultants was appointed to aid and assist the Government in this exercise. The consultants have submitted their recommendations after examining several alternatives of restructuring including Merger of MTNL and BSNL. Considering the complexity of issues involved in the restructuring exercise, the Government is carefully weighing all options before taking a decision so that interest of all the stake holders are protected and the ultimate objectives of restructuring exercise are met.

Recommendations made by TRAI

150. SHRI K. RAMA MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether looking to the rising gap between urban and rural communication facilities TRAI has recommended for giving incentives for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.